They Throw Starlight
Into The Void
Enla'yhea

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Author's Note

I, like many others, belong to the category of men whose lives have been saved by art—men who would not have survived without it. For that reason, I felt the need to add something of my own to the magnificent body of human creative works, no matter how small that contribution may be.

So I dived deep within my heart to bring forth the work you see before you. I only hope it reaches those rare, special souls for whom it was written.

I

Ah-yah had no recollection of her true heritage and identity except for some nebulous visions, dreamy feelings, and silent intuitions. I will not disclose much about her early days on earth; suffice it to say that she was a spark of pure joy until her eyes were opened, and she realized that she was different from other people. This had made her introspective and reticent. Her mood was getting worse with each passing day as she would learn more about the ways of human life, she couldn't comprehend how things, which to her were obviously wrong, are normal practice, and how people live their lives in waiting, as though life has not begun yet, or is paused, and they're waiting for someone to tell them; "live! You have only this life, and it's all yours, live!"

Somedays her heart would be suddenly struck by an intense and suffocating pain, and she would start to question her purpose for existence, or the purpose of existence itself. And in these moments, she would flee to embrace her only friend, a red maple at the edge of the river near their house.

One such day, she was sitting with her friend, her body being supported by the great tree as she leaned against it. She closed her eyes to find comfort in the pure music of the water and the wind as they danced through the earth. The river was calm, broken only by the gentle swirl of current against the reeds. A swan came into view; it moved without hurry, its head held high. Ah-yah opened her eyes, watching in silence. After a while, she stepped forward instinctively, drawn to it.

"O beautiful creature, pure and innocent," said Ah-yah, "I cannot continue anymore. And why should I? It feels good to believe those who say the universe is made of love and is inherently good; it feels right, but maybe it is what I wish to believe, what I wish it truly was! Only a wish…

It is as if empathy and love are a malfunction. As if we are a minority of outsiders in a cruel and heartless universe. I cannot continue. there's no point."

She was on the verge of tears, but she closed her eyes and took a deep breath, seeking solace in her inner solitude. A maple leaf fell upon her hand, and she opened her eyes again, only then did she smell the refreshing scent of petrichor surrounding her body. And when she looked again at the quiet river in front of her and the majestic mountains behind it, without differentiating them as river and mountain, a deep surge of joy released from her heart. And she burst into tears.

***

Everything changed on a night in May when the sound of the wind caressing the gentle trees was the only music for those still awake. Ah-yah was lying on her bed, feeling unwell and restless, and no matter how hard she tried to sleep, she could not. She opened her eyes and stared at the ceiling with a blank mind. After some time, she began seeing flashes of light. She thought

it was her imagination and calmly kept observing the colorful waves of light floating above her bed. She closed her eyes, opened them again, and they were still there. She sat up, and the colors began floating around the room. Overcome by curiosity, she looked at the light waves as they floated towards the window and went outside her room. She rose and looked out the window and saw that there was a great source of twinkling light to which these light waves were returning.

Ah-yah felt fascinated and wonderstruck, and at last her fascination compelled her to follow the flashes of light to find their source. The streets were dimly lit, but her path was illuminated by the waves of light that she was following. Violet, green, white, and blue waves of radiant light; intermingling with each other and guiding her away from the houses and towards a green hill.

Shortly afterwards, she reached the source of the light, a little hill called the hill beyond crossroads, and the colorful waves slowly began to disappear.

As she moved closer, she could see that someone, or something, was standing next to the old oak tree on top of the hill, waiting for her. She stopped at a distance and kept observing the figures, trying to see their features clearly; their distinctions became apparent. And she was shocked to see that one was an extremely tall and thin insect-like creature with protruding eyes, deep blue skin that gleamed like cut sapphire, and two slender antennae coming out of its head, like those of a praying mantis, sensing every movement around it. And the other was a shorter, thin creature with an elongated skull, large purple eyes, soft silver-white skin, and wavy, long golden hair.

"Come forth, Ah-yah." Said the mantis-like creature. His deep, warm voice flying gently through the atmosphere as opposed to cutting through it.

She was frozen without movement.

"Ah-yah! Come, there's no reason to be afraid."

"How does he know my name?" Wondered Ah-yah

"We know you well." Said the alien.

Ah-yah hesitantly and slowly came out of hiding and began walking towards them.

"Who are you?" Said Ah-yah

"I am bru’ah; representative of the Aethien high council." And pointing towards his companion, he said. "He is Zola, the commander of the Ranthia fleets. We are your brothers from the farthest reaches of time and space."

"Those lights, was that you?" asked Ah-yah.

"Yes. We have been waiting for the right time to contact you.”

"Why did you want to contact me?"

“Your body is human, but your soul is extraterrestrial.” Said Bru’ah and paused, allowing Ah-yah a little time to cogitate. “You didn’t have to be born upon this planet; you did not have to suffer the hardships that being born upon this planet entails, but you chose to do so. You knew that it would not be easy, but you also knew that your presence here would make a difference. You have been meditating upon this and trying to remember why you chose to come here. We can help you find the answer.”

Ah-yah was excited and curious, but she only replied with “Tell me then, why?”

"To adequately answer your question would take us a long time.” Responded Bru’ah, “But if you choose to accompany us, we might be able to answer some of your questions."

"Accompany you?" She said, demanding more insight.

Bru’ah looked back towards Zola, and Zola nodded in response. They looked upwards towards the starry night, and as if a star dropped down from the heavens, an elliptical shuttle descended towards the hill and landed next to Zola. Ah-yah was dazzled by the luminous white shuttle. And she couldn't help but accept the offer when Zola offered a tour of the wondrous vessel.

They entered the shuttle, and it began its ascent.

"Who's controlling this?" Asked Ah-yah, as she was overwhelmed and didn’t know what else to say.

"It is much more intelligent than you suppose." Replied Zola. And then the luminous craft became transparent; she could see everything outside of it, as if there were no barriers. Amazed and fascinated, she looked at the tops of the trees nearby and the buildings far away. They passed through the cumulus clouds and went upwards until they reached the upper atmosphere. The vessel was hovering in the translucent space until a large doorway opened, and they went inside the Ranthia ship.

II

She was taken to the central hall of the Ranthia ship, where various Ranthian creatures were busy, and they were silently communicating with each other. She walked forward towards one of the Ranthians who was looking at a large screen in front of him, filled with alien symbols and complex graphs. She watched its content inquisitively.

"What are these?" she asked, looking back at Zola, who was standing behind her. Zola's large purple eyes sparkled; his face appeared to have an eternal smile on it, even though there were no signs of a physical smile.

"These are graphical representations of our sensors." He Replied.

"Your sensors, what do they sense?"

"An incomplete but simplified answer would be that they capture the emotional and mental energies of the human race: Providing us with insight into potential future probabilities that you might be moving towards."

"Forgive me if this is a dumb question," she said hesitantly, "but why is that of interest to you?"

"Consider a pebble thrown into the lake; ripples are created as soon as the pebble touches the surface of the lake, then it descends down into the bottom of the lake and rests there. The ripples caused by this pebble —no matter how small— will travel in every direction and influence the surrounding waters, altering their fate forever. We are all in the same lake, and the ripples of your mind affect all the other dwellers of the lake."

She thought about this for a moment, then remembered what she had written in her notebook days ago: "Parables and metaphors are for people who can't think clearly about a subject; so they need pointers and hints. They need simplifications to ease their stupidity."

"Perhaps it was a dumb question," she said to herself and moved on.

Meanwhile, Bru'ah, who had not been present during these conversations, returned to join them, his presence naturally demanding their complete silence and attention. He did not waste much time and began his speech.

"The cosmos is infinite," said Bru'ah. "And there are structures or templates through which time and space manifests, the structures within which your time cycles manifest —which is itself a small part of the infinite cosmos— contain a multitude of universes; galaxies, stars, planets, and races on many levels. The human race is a small part of the larger families of consciousness and an heir of ancient races." He paused for a moment and resumed. "Hundreds of Billions of years ago, a great divide occurred within your universe. The true origin of this event goes beyond your time cycles; however, its effects are manifest and apparent even in your daily life upon earth. The nature of this divide can only be understood after the true nature of creation is adequately understood. Infinity and eternity are one and the same thing. And the core structures through which your universe came into existence were expressions of oneness or All-unity. And for hundreds of billions of years, all of the races within your universe upheld these natural laws of unity and lived by them. A system built upon the laws of unity would naturally

manifest harmony, beauty, and a loving dance of life. Every exhale would be an offering of love, every inhale would be a gift of love."

Ah-yah was seeing visions within her mind's eye as she listened to Bru'ah. Images of other worlds and their inhabitants, far away in time yet so close and tangible that it felt as though she was there with them, now.

"The most significant gift of love is freedom," Bru'ah continued. "And this gift also enables beings to refuse love itself, and lose their freedom. This freedom allowed some beings to experiment and change the fundamental code of creation. By reversing the flow of energy, they created an upside-down reality. And progressively forgot the truth of all-oneness. However, nothing exists that is not dependent upon All-oneness for its existence, but those who refused the gift of unity also refused the gift of infinity and eternity. Thus came into existence races of finite beings who can only prolong their life span by taking life from those still blessed by love."

Ah-yah was dazzled. She felt as if everything that Bru'ah said was self-evidently true, and that she understood him perfectly well; she was deeply transfixed.

"The great divide is apparent within your universe: some races have totally forgotten unity and seek dominion over the entire universe in order to prolong their life. Other races that still retain some cognition of unity might choose to change their path and reclaim their birthright of eternality. The races that have never forgotten the truth of All-Oneness have always assisted these races in their desire to reclaim their eternality. Your race was created with a vision: that you might be a shining example of the magnificence and beauty of All-oneness. That you may be a guardian of truth and a guide for all who seek to embody love.

You have been allowed to mingle with fallen and digressive races in order to help them remember the truth. But in this process, you have suffered great traumas, and you have forgotten the love that was your guide and symbol. Your purity and innocence enabled them to violate your freedom. And to this day, they continue to do so. But your forefathers still hold on to a vision of timeless perfection. They wish to see you rise again as eternal ones, and they work to fulfill that vision."

Ah-yah heard herself sobbing and looked at her own reflection in the metal door next to her. She noticed her tears and wiped them off.

Bru'ah, having seen her state, said, "Ah-yah, you are loved beyond your imagination. You are loved from the farthest reaches of the universe. I came here to greet you, and I'm filled with great delight to see you as you are, noble daughter. I will depart from you now, and your journey will continue with Zola."

He then made a gesture, bidding farewell to the crew of the ship. And his body began sparkling, the sparks began shining brightly until nothing but radiant light was left, and in an instant, the great radiant light disappeared, and Bru'ah was gone.

III

In the morning of the following day, Ah-yah opened her eyes and found herself in her bed. She tried to move, but her body was sore, and her limbs felt heavy. She struggled and finally sat down on her bed and slowly began stretching her limbs. After a few minutes, her body was better equipped to obey her commands and move. She then went to change her clothes and leave her room to meet her friend next to the river.

On the way, she was thinking about the previous night. The visions, the words, and the feelings she had felt were flooding her awareness; she could not believe that it was real. She was convinced that it was all a dream and wondered what would cause such a vivid and penetrating dream.

When she reached her destination, she took a piece of paper and drew sketches of Zola and Bru'ah. She then sat silently with her hands under her cheeks as she stared at the sketch and pondered her experience. The river was running quiet and the wind was gentle, the birds were singing in the distance, and the hopeful rays of the golden sun united all the forces of nature under its heavenly light.

Suddenly and in a flash, Zola appeared in front of her. "Greetings," he said. "I hope my presence is welcomed." As he slowly stepped closer to her, his golden hair reflected the warm rays of the sunlight. His presence held a weight that brought with it tranquility as well as playful comfort.

She was startled but happy to see him, and he was greeted warmly. Ah-yah did not waste much time before asking him about last night.

"You lost awareness; it was expected." Said Zola, "It is what happens when your body is exposed to frequencies that it cannot properly synthesize. Bru'ah was talking to you with words, but he was also talking to your body directly and without words. You passed out so that the cognition of his message can be properly synthesized in your body, and we brought you to your home so you may rest comfortably.

"I understand." Replied Ah-yah

She went quiet, contemplating many lines of thought; she had more questions than she could ever have answers.

"You are conflicted." Said Zola, observing her state.

"I understand you now," replied Ah-yah, "and I understood Zola's thoughts when he was talking. I felt them to be true, but I do not understand them if I try to relate them to other ideas in my mind. My thoughts move back and forth until clarity is replaced with confusion. "

"Be patient." Said Zola. "Your mind can get overwhelmed, just like your body was overwhelmed. You need time, and in time, clarity will replace confusion."

Ah-yah was silent. She tried to gather her thoughts. She was more concerned with the bleak realities of existence, being familiar only with the comfort that springs from the solidarity of those who share their sorrow."

“I’m not surprised that this galaxy is a mess,” she said, staring into Zola’s eyes, “ it is obvious”.

“Of course it is,” said Zola. "But what are you?”

Ah-yah was quiet.

“The human race was responsible for earth’s safekeeping,” continued Zola, “they were supposed to be the guardians of the earth, and they failed, but so did we. We were supposed to be their guardians, and we have failed them. Yet we are still standing, and so are you. And you can start a spark that will ignite the eternal fire of the human spirit once more, for you are a human merged with ancient stars.”

Ah-yah sighed

“But do you know how it feels to be a human?” She said, staring into Zola’s eyes.

“We are alone in a hostile world, and we have nothing to guide us; our religions offer nothing but belief. And most of us hold on to that with all of our might, for that is all we have. Our sciences? A speck of dust in a barren desert! If we wish to pursue wisdom, we must abandon all life and spend years contemplating in solitude. And then, when we have finally discovered that we do not really know anything, we are too old to do anything other than sit down and wait for our impending doom.”

Zola moved closer to her, his large purple eyes sparkling. “I am aware that knowledge is scarce, and truth is buried under lies and speculations upon this planet. And there’s much that you are yet to know. You must remember who you are, and relearn the knowledge you once held within your heart.”

He raised his hand; he had a small glowing crystal in his hand.

“Take this,” he said.

“What is it?”

“It’s a memory crystal, and it holds great knowledge within it.”

“I don’t want information, I need living knowledge in my blood. I want to feel the knowing flow through me,” Responded Ah-yah dismissively.

“Try it, it responds to your mind and DNA in its manner of guiding you through its vast depository of knowledge.”

He handed over the crystal to Ah-yah; it was glowing violet.

As usual, Ah-yah’s curiosity outweighed her skepticism, and she sat down in a corner, activating the crystal. Her mind was completely occupied with questions, and perhaps for the first time, she felt enough joy in one sudden burst so as to make her a believer in a heavenly state. She was completely entranced as she explored the endless sea of knowledge. And shortly afterwards, Zola bid her farewell and left her to satisfy her curiosity on her own.

To feel the growth of one’s understanding, is the most satisfying feeling in the world. And it was this pleasure, fueled by wonder-filled curiosity that drove Ah-yah to spend the next few weeks in complete solitude, learning about things she could barely imagine. There were millions of years of Earth history, hundreds of millions of years of galactic history, countless alien races and civilizations with various customs, philosophies, and art forms. Countless

approaches to life and art, to science and technology, to god and divinity, and it would take her thousands of lifetimes to study them all. At this point, she could only expand her knowledge of how much there’s to know that she doesn't, or might never do. And having come to terms with knowing that there’s no end to the growth of understanding, she had to choose what was important enough to explore in the limited time that she had.

IV

With Zola as her spiritual guide, Ah-yah continued her quest for knowledge, remembering the eternal dance of joy that demands presence and compels motion, she learned how to merge with the elemental forces and move as one with them. Her heart grew placid as she learned about the natural structure of the universe, its divine order and direction; the intended path for creation, and how, when the manifested form is projected, it is allowed the freedom to abandon that path.

She studied how the dominant energy pattern upon a planet influences the evolution of biological forms that reside on it. And how the energetic pattern of a planet is kept in balance and in harmony with the divine order by a set of gates that, when opened, allow for higher-dimensional energy to come in and support the planet. But her placidity was short-lived, for soon she learned that on earth, these gates are mostly shut down and replaced by artificial gates that steal quantum energy from the planet instead of nourishing it.

She learned about the existence of a certain jamming apparatus at the core of the planet earth that severs the planetary time-wave's connection from its source, by sending in a wave of energy that latches on to the planet's core, feeding upon it to strengthen its pull until it builds enough quantum energy to permanently and irreversibly change the direction of the planetary time wave. This revelation did not surprise her, as if her heart already knew about it, but it sparked a burning desire within her to take action, to do something. And to that end, she focused all of her energy on trying to find a solution to the problem. She studied all the information contained within the crystal over and over, but she was not satisfied. The crystal didn't contain what she needed.

In her frustration, she reached out to Zola within her mind and shared her feelings with him. Not long after, he came to visit her. Ah-yah was sitting on her bed; she had barely left her room for days. And when he appeared in her room, she did not react to his presence at all, as if he wasn't visible to her. When Zola saw her state, he became introspective momentarily, his purple eyes expressing concern. But he quickly regained his composure, greeting her with his usual warmth. Ah-yah was quiet, slowly turning her head towards him and staring at him for a little while.

"How can you allow this planet to be abused in this manner?" Muttered Ah-yah, "Why don't you intervene?"

Zola stepped forward and sat at the edge of her bed.

"We can't risk it." He murmured, "Our direct intervention would unleash a galactic confrontation that could lead to the destruction of this galaxy, so we work from afar and make contact with those who share a deep bond with us." Ah-yah remained quiet.

"From the early days of their evolution," he resumed. "We tried to bring the truth to the humans of the earth, to empower them to stand up with virtue and wisdom and accept the honor and responsibility that was their ancient heritage, to bring gentle echoes of love into the world.

But the adversaries have come in and manipulated our movements, directing them to a path we had not intended. Once they raided and took over the planetary portal system, they no longer had the need to come from the outside and manipulate. For they had direct access to their mind and biology through the earth's natural energy circulation system. They could plant ideologies and patterns of thought, release mental pathogens, and ensure the dominance of their own minions on earth indefinitely.

"And how can we stop them?" Asked Ah-yah impatiently,

"There's a place on earth." Said Zola after a long pause. "The intended final destination for all humans if their evolution unfolded in harmony with divine will. It houses an ancient gate that opens directly to eternal fields of pure intelligence, only if there's a human who is ready to ascend to the highest heaven. But now, it is called Avalon, and is used as a control center that extends forwards and backwards in time and manipulates events, strengthening the artificial time-wave's hold on earth. We cannot pinpoint its exact coordinates as they've employed a shielding technique that evades detection through periodic time shifts. Thus, we have our efforts focused upon containing the effects of their manipulations until we're able to eradicate the issue at its core."

"Am I to learn how to endure this misery, being too powerless to effect change?"

Zola held her hand,

"Had I the option, I would trade eternal damnation for myself to release the seal of Avalon, but I do not." He said, solemnly.

"All you can do is to deepen your bond with the light core of the planet, the heart of life. To embody that light and shine with such brightness that it subdues all darkness without effort. This may seem ineffective, but with time and patience, you will see its effects. However, you must learn patience.

But Ah-yah did not see this as a matter of patience. To her, inaction meant accepting a life she despised, one of wasted light and mediocrity. She looked away, her eyes lost, and stayed quiet.

"While the unfolding of your true essence is a process in time, its existence is a timeless reality which is always yours, if you only will to claim it." Said Zola as he rose up and bid her farewell. But Ah-yah wasn't optimistic, even though a part of her wanted to have faith, to allow hope to guide her, even if it is idiotic.

V

It is not easy to distinguish between the random dreamscape of the subconscious mind and the meaningful visions that the mind receives while the body is asleep. But when Ah-yah had a dream, it was clear to her that its source was something outside of her, something intelligent.

She came into awareness within a void, empty and dark. And in the next moment, she was within the mind of a lion: Walking slowly among the tall grasses of a savannah. She saw the world through the eyes of a lion. The world was beige and grey, and the lion was looking far ahead. A lioness walked stealthily behind him and jumped upon his back. He turned around and struck the lioness with his powerful paws. The lioness lay on her back and prepared for his attack, after a few moments of play-fighting; they both ended up lying next to each other, the lioness licking and grooming the majestic mane of the lion.

Ah-yah was enjoying the rough and pleasant sensations within the lion when she suddenly found herself in the void. She was then moved back into the mind of the lion, but this time the lion was standing still, with a chain fastened around his neck, and the chain was held by a naked woman with long curly hair. The lion looked around it, his eyes empty as an abyss. He would do what he was commanded by his master, nothing more, nothing less.

Suddenly, a bright red light appeared, and from within it, walked forth a tall figure, wearing black robes and no visible features upon his face.

“Behold the tamed lion!” Said the man, his voice rumbling within Ah-yah’s mind, “he was once a living creature, full of life and power. But lacking reason and insight. Observe him and his state, for this is a symbol, a mere image projection of the fate towards which your race is headed.”

“Why are you showing me this?” Asked Ah-yah with innocent curiosity.

The man began laughing, his laughter deafening. His form changed, and he turned into a shadow. The shadow moved in towards Ah-yah and got close to her face. He whispered something unintelligible in her ear and disappeared.

She woke up with a sense of dread, her heart burning like a furnace, and a name echoing within her mind. She sat in silence until she started to feel frustrated with silence itself, and she could no longer remember the name that had been echoing within her mind.

She looked outside; it was a bright night. Ah-yah sneaked out of her room and quietly went outside the house. She was headed towards the river to find peace in the presence of the gentle source of life.

Lying down next to her old friend, she looked at the stars, and the stars seemed much more alive, now that she had learned about their inhabitants. She felt small in comparison to the sheer enormity of life, but when a sense of unity with the magnificent stars came into her heart, she felt eternal, peaceful, and majestic. She was quiet for a long time in this state, enjoying the ephemeral glow of the night sky.

When her mind was filled with silence and tranquility, she turned her attention to her friend and looked at its trunk, “What is the significance of your friendship to my heart, if not the significance that I bestow upon it?” She said to her friend. “And what is the meaning of my life, if not the meaning that I bestow upon it?”

She rose up in her place.

“I’m not too fond of humanity, I despise their endless foolishness, their ignorance, and indifference to each other’s suffering, the malice with which they approach one another. But I’ve also seen their resilience in the face of hardship, their commitment to remain good when the whole world seems demonic, their will to go on even when they’re terrified of every coming moment and are ill-equipped to deal with the most basic challenges. Maybe I’m trying to compensate, to fill a hole, but I care not, for I too am a Human.”

She fell back into deep silence, her eyes lost, not blinking. And she began speaking, only when her eyes were almost wet with tears.

“All I want, and the only thing that would satisfy my heart, is to see a world where people let love guide their actions,” she said with a tone she had not used before,” where the pain of one is felt by all and no one feels unloved. And if I fail to lead my life to that end, then my life has gone to waste.”

VI

There are moments in our lives when we have the opportunity to enter a new path and write our own destiny, to refuse the script written for us by others and face the world single-mindedly determined to achieve what we desire. The courage it takes to do this is beyond words. But if there's anything that Ah-yah had no shortage of, it was courage.

She knew exactly what to do; she would open the primary gate that would, in turn, open all of the secondary natural gates on the planet. She knew that Zola would never approve of this, so she had to prepare for months in secret, until she was ready to take action.

And when the time was right, Ah-yah took control of the intelligent shuttle and began her voyage through the forests and the rivers, towards a distant part of the planet, a mountainous region. She went far into the heart of the mountains until the shuttle stopped; it wouldn't take her any further. She left the shuttle and began walking on foot. It was now autumn, and the quiet, sunless sky above the ancient mountains added to the tranquility of the atmosphere, as if these mountains indeed held timeless wisdom stored within them. The ground beneath her feet was hard and rocky, and she walked with greater bodily self-awareness than before.

She continued walking in silence, the only sound being made by the crushing of the autumn leaves beneath her feet, until she reached the mouth of a dark, large cave. She stopped for a moment to gaze upon the great mountain that housed the cave. Her eyes shone with determined courage, facing the great unknown.

Ah-yah closed her eyes and took a deep breath in as she entered the cave,

"The true guide of my heart," she said softly, "It is union with you that I seek, and all else matters little. Abandon me not, and guide my steps with your divine will."

She stepped inside the cave. It was cold and dark. She turned on her flashlight and walked further down the cave, looking for a sign, and for a long distance, there was nothing to be found other than dim rocks and cold darkness. Finally, she noticed a familiar symbol and moved slowly towards it. When she was close enough, she could see that the symbol began glowing. She gently extended her hand, and as soon as she touched it, she was transported deep underneath the cave.

When she opened her eyes, she was astonished by the extraordinary sight that surrounded her. She was within a large cavern, colorful and bright with glowing crystals, breathtakingly vibrant with an aliveness that felt as though this was the very core of life itself. There was a large crystal at the center of the cavern, the radiance of which illuminated the entire cavern.

She seemed hypnotized. She knew that she was about to open the gates that had been shut off for thousands of years. And if she succeeded in maintaining the flow of energy and anchoring it to the planet's core, the earth would no longer be the same; a new phase of history would unfold.

She approached the central crystal and began humming with a calm, mindful tone, deepening her mindfulness as she continued. And after a while, she started singing the sacred

songs, her voice spiraling around the cavern and building momentum as she kept singing, till the end part of the song, where the energy of her voice was released through the crystals and into the earth, as a gift and an offering. Moments passed, and a feeling came over her, knowing that earth itself had indeed approved of her, had accepted her offer, and was willing to work with her; she had never felt such acceptance before.

A gentle breeze moved through her feet. She opened her eyes and affirmed that this was indeed the beginning of the procedure.

She closed her eyes, and within her mind's eye she saw an emerald colored vortex forming beneath her feet, deep underground. Her awareness went down and through the vortex, appearing on the other side. There, she saw a marvelous and warm star, sparkling with golden light, its radiant warmth washing through her consciousness and filling it with an eternal sensation of power and safety. She floated within this golden star for what felt like an eternity; an eternity manifested in a few seconds. At last, when her awareness was filled with light, she traced her way back through the emerald vortex into her physical body. And with her came a golden wave of light from the marvelous star.

As her awareness settled within her physical body, so did the golden light. Gently moving through the molecules of her body and merging with its particles. The vortex was open, and the energy of the golden light was flowing into her body. She directed the energy to flow in and around her body, harmonically synchronized with her breath.

Soon, she merged her awareness with the golden light, and in their union, their power amplified. The tube of golden light that was transferring energy to her body from the golden star thickened and grew in size and began resonating with a deeper and more powerful current. Rumbling throughout the cavern, the energy had grown way too strong to be held under her control. It was at this point that she approached the translucent crystal in the middle of the cavern, and holding her hands up to it, she directed all the light and the power that was coming into her body into the large crystal, intending it to ground onto the earth.

She could feel the consciousness of the earth and the linking crystal, gracefully accepting the incoming energies. Once the flow was fully established, a sense of ease came upon her, followed by transcendence. Her mind and awareness were fully occupied as the energies continued to pass through her and into the planet. In this state, she was completely and entirely defenseless.

And suddenly, as though thunder broke, a dark portal opened up behind her, and from it a jolt of lightning hit her body. She fell to the ground, unconscious, and her body was pulled towards the vortex, as if it were to be devoured by it.

VII

For a brief moment, all was light, and then a great darkness was the only thing left. She regained her bodily self-awareness when she emerged on the other side. She felt the sand beneath her feet, heard waves of the ocean and saw a group of people standing around her, but her vision was blurry, and she was feeling dizzy. With a sense of vertigo present beneath her mind, she remained upright for a few more seconds, and then fell to her knees. She looked up as a woman stepped forward towards her. She was tall and stood firm, wearing a grey uniform; her blonde hair hung down her shoulders. She observed Ah-yah quietly and intently.

"Stand up and follow me!" She said, "lord Ténèbres demands your presence, now."

Partly out of curiosity and partly out of a knowing that she had no choice but to do as she was told, Ah-yah stood up and followed the woman without resistance.

The scenery before her was awe-inspiring. A grand, gothic cathedral on the island: in melodic harmony with nature. The air felt light, and the wind blew swiftly. She could feel something ancient in the air, something sacred. But also a sheath of artificial light, an energy that blocked her higher senses. She followed the woman to the cathedral, which wasn't very far. The island was quiet; she did not encounter any living creatures as they made their way towards the cathedral.

They were walking upon a bridge leading up to a large dome, the top end of which was barely visible. And after everything she had gone through, the time spent walking allowed her to return to some level of normal awareness. Finally, they got to the dome and entered the hall. The hall was dark with faint shades of red light in the corners. There was a dark figure sitting on a throne; his features were not apparent, but as they moved closer, a dim white light began appearing near his throne. His features became apparent. It was a man, or rather, appeared to be one. Ah-yah was perplexed; there was something missing about the man. She could see a shell but could not penetrate beyond the shadow surrounding his mind.

The lady approached Ténèbres's throne and stood before him, waiting. He appeared to be deep in thought; to him, Ah-yah was a tool to be used, and he wanted to use it effectively, but he also did not wish to waste too much time on her.

"We meet again, Ah-yah!" Said Ténèbres, without changing his position. "Are you ready to accept your destiny?"

Ah-yah was introspective for a moment; she recognized his tone. It was the same tone as the man in her dream.

"Was it you who had infiltrated my dream?" Asked Ah-yah

"Your light caught my attention," responded Ténèbres.

Ténèbres, still in his throne, turned towards Ah-yah, and she could suddenly feel his energy around her. Her mind was distracted by a warm intruding presence beneath her awareness. She was battling to keep her awareness from being overrun by this intruding presence that their eyes met, and as if an invisible blast hit her, she was internally paralyzed.

Ah-yah, who had learned a few tactics of psychic combat; tried to resist his will, but to no avail. A dark spark emerged from Ténèbres's chest and moved towards Ah-yah. It quickly went inside her chest. She could feel the darkness taking full control of her body and restraining her awareness. She tried to push through to regain control of her body, but she was powerless.

"We have much to do together," said Ténèbres,

But Ah-yah was not listening to Ténèbres; she was not sensing herself inside her body, but up and above it, looking down upon herself and Ténèbres.

"Now, let's speak metaphorically, for I know that you love metaphors." Said Ténèbres, within Ah-yah's mind. "Your ability to open the gates of heaven will enable me to conquer heaven itself!"

Ah-yah, under the yoke of Ténèbres, began walking out of the cathedral and retraced her journey back to the island. She was hearing her own voice speaking thoughts that were not hers. And she was aware of someone else guiding her limbs, while her own awareness was a mere witness, powerless. She was struggling to retain her true self.

Suddenly, her awareness was split in two, and she found a part of herself in the mental realm within a dark green field next to a river, akin to where she often went to visit her friend, but she could barely see anything as the atmosphere was full of fog. All the colors appeared dimmer, and the silence felt empty. And the lovely red maple was nowhere to be found.

No matter how hopeless - She tried to look for a way back into her body. But the veil put forth by Ténèbres made it seem impossible. However, she did not have the option to give up; there was little technique involved in this endeavor, and much force. With force and determination, she continued. By this time, her body had reached the area that would transport her back to the cavern, and Ténèbres's voice was echoing within her mind as he was commanding her to open a portal,

Just as she was about to slip away completely, she heard a voice calling her name. It was herself, her authentic self. The voice brought her back, as if to wake a sleeping person. The commanding voice of Ténèbres echoed again, but she did not move; it echoed again, and again. She refused to comply. She had gathered enough strength not to obey his commands. However, she could not move her body. She was still seeing within her mind's eye and not her physical eyes. Suddenly, the vision began to change. She saw herself in the mental realm, being surrounded and protected by a wall of maple trees, led by her friend. This invigorated her enough so she could push the infiltrating energy out of her physical body with force. As the dark phantom left her body, a pale blue and violet colored shield formed around her, keeping the shadow away. She had her first victory, and it was short-lived. But now there was hope, and with it, the probabilities of fate had changed.

This was a historic occasion, even by eternity's standards. This was special; a human had managed to break free from Ténèbres, the lord of Avalon. It marked humanity's break from the seal of Avalon.

Ténèbres was infuriated to see his hold on Ah-Yah broken as he woke up on his throne, completely cut off from her. A dark shadow emerged from his chest and left his body. His body

was now fully unconscious and abandoned. It traveled towards Ah-yah and surrounded her body; in the mental realm and the physical realm. Ah-yah was standing within her blue-violet shield and the protective wall of trees. When the shadow arrived, it grew larger and larger until it completely surrounded her, and in a quick burst, it descended down upon her with Ténèbres’s full might. Upon unleashing Ténèbres's wrath, the shield was broken, the wall destroyed, and she was struck down. And woke up within her body, being paralyzed. She soon lost consciousness completely.

VIII

Ah-yah was semi-conscious when she noticed that she was being dragged through a dark underground corridor. She heard screams of horror and quiet sobbing as she passed through different doors, until they arrived in a room resembling a prison cell. The room was not as dark as the corridor; there were faint shades of red light. She was thrown inside, and the door was shut upon her. She lost awareness once more and woke up after hours.

When she regained consciousness, the weight of the decision she had made and the hardship of the challenge before her dawned upon her for the first time. She lay thoughtless and lost, observing a little ladybug's movements on the dark edges of the door quietly. After a long period of dead silence, she heard footsteps coming from outside the cell. It would be false to say she was not afraid, but she had it suppressed, yet as soon as the door opened and Ténèbres stepped inside, an uncontrollable feeling of dread entered her body and overpowered any thought or feelings of her own.

"You have proven yourself worthy, Ah-yah," declared Ténèbres as he entered her cell, "and I want to offer you the chance to serve yourself, by serving me." He paused and looked into her eyes. "Do you have the courage to embrace it? To stand alone and be a true god: The only type of god worth the worship."

"I will exist, now and forever, and never in your service." Said Ah-yah with a bitter tone. "I fear you not for you have no existence in eternity."

He looked at her almost with pity or disgust.

"You refuse absolute power, the greatest pleasure in the world."

"I'm the creator and the architect of my fate," said Ah-yah, boldened now. "And in my love, I serve all."

"Architect?" Ténèbres began slowly walking towards her, and a dark shadow emerged around his body, growing larger as he came closer. "Do you truly believe that you can guide your fate in opposition to my will?"

She didn't utter a word, but her eyes, fiery, indomitable eyes, gave away the answer.

Once he was close enough, Ténèbres put his left hand upon her chest, and as if a volcano erupted within her ribcage, her chest began burning with unbearable pain. She fell down on her knees. Ténèbres fed upon her spirit and left her only when her body could not handle it anymore.

"Take her to the altar and perform the rite of entry!" Said Ténèbres, on his way out of her cell to the blond woman who was standing at the door. Ah-yah was drained and left on the floor. Two guards came in and took her by her arms. She wanted to resist, but she had no energy to do anything. She was dragged outside.

It was midnight, and the only sound she could hear was that of the ocean's waves. She was taken towards a great altar near the ocean, with six dark pillars around it, without a roof, so the moonlight would shine upon the altar directly. Once there, she was laid upon the altar, a man stood before her foot and a woman atop her head. They both had a thick brown book in their

hands. And as soon as she was tied to the altar, they opened the book and started reading verses from it; at first, it seemed like nothing extraordinary was happening, just verses being chanted. But as the time went by, she began to feel the effects of their chants. The sounds they made started feeling harsh, and the words stung her body and soul with malicious energy. This book was written in one of the defiled ancient galactic languages.

She wanted to mock and taunt them, to defiantly ask, “Do you really think that your incantations and spells will work on me?” But she had no energy to do so. She was feeling ill and weak, and she knew that once the ritual was complete, she would no longer be the same person; her true essence would be buried deep below layers of darkness for the rest of her life.

The only thought in her mind was that she had not only failed, but she had turned into a spawn of evil, the very thing she feared and despised. She had endured everything, but this, she could not!

Knowing she could neither resist the spell nor face Ténèbres afterwards, she did the only thing she could. She intentionally entered a deep trance state, burying her awareness within her unconscious mind to a point that she seemed completely unconscious and unaware of her body and mind. Her body was now ready for possession.

IX

The moonlight was waning, and the dawn of a new day was near. Ténèbres had his gaze focused on Ah-yah's unconscious body, lying on the altar. His minions had gathered around the Altar to witness his transposition. He could not wait any longer. He moved next to the altar, extending his hands above her abdomen. Black fog appeared around his hands, and from his palms a beam of dark energy entered Ah-yah's body. There was no resistance, and after a few minutes, Ténèbres's body fell to the ground, and he woke up in Ah-yah's body, which was now his, irreversibly.

He stood up, adjusting to his newly acquired body, his minions celebrating his victory by making a disturbing, high-pitched noise in unison. He had to act quickly, as the window of opportunity for an infiltrated body to open the natural gates is small. He wanted to activate and merge his dark gates, and the heart of Avalon, with the natural gate systems and the light core of the planet that he could now access with Ah-yah's body. If successful, this would ensure his complete and absolute ownership of the planet.

Without wasting any time, he made his way to the location of the central gate, the control gate for the heart of Avalon. He easily opened the first portal, bringing into activation the dark heart of Avalon at the core of the planet and all the primary and secondary gates connected to it. With his inbreath, he drew energy from the dark heart into his own, a flame of darkness surrounding his body. He continued this process long enough that the entire island was filled with fog and darkness, and the plants were decaying rapidly. He then moved his attention towards the living light core of the planet, its beating heart. He tried to open a portal to it, but it was not possible; his awareness was too impure, and he did not have the skills or the right to do it.

As a last resort, he allowed Ah-yah's body to act intuitively, allowing it more freedom than he normally would; he replayed her cellular memory of opening the natural gate in her body, and he waited, distancing his awareness.

At last, his plan worked, and a natural gate opened up before him, a portal to the light core of the planet. He quickly returned to fully embody Ah-yah's body, and it wasn't pleasant. The intensity of the light, in contrast with his dark awareness, damaged him as well as burning Ah-yah's body. But he pushed forth, and once the portal was established, he quickly sent in a beam of his dark energy through it. The dark spark made its way to the core, making way for more darkness to follow. The dark heart of Avalon was now in the process of taking over the planetary light core.

Meanwhile, from the depths of her mind, Ah-yah's awareness slipped beyond the boundaries of regular time and space. She came into awareness in a field of light, resembling a Sea of dreamlike awareness, ephemeral and sublime. There were light beings standing and floating around her, but everyone and everything seemed to be one and the same being. And she could hear gentle euphoric music, not around her, but moving through and within her.

One of the beings approached her, extending his hand towards her, as if to invite her to join them. No words were uttered as this was a field of immaculate awareness and direct cognition. Her eyes shone in response, accompanied by a gentle, eternal smile; she communicated her decision without words and closed her eyes. Falling back, falling down, down and back into her body, she returned to a body that was irreversibly possessed by Ténèbres.

Carrying within her awareness the cognition of timeless power and love, it overtook and filled the portion of her mind that had remained embodied, as if a Golden-silver spark of vivid light shot down from eternity, quickly moving through her body and entering the earth, headed down to its very core. As soon as the spark was released, the island shook. The light core that had been surrounded by darkness regained its vigor and grew in luminescence.

Ténèbres was furious but powerless. Ah-yah was about to reverse the process he had begun, “What are you doing?” He cried in terror within her mind, being trapped therein, “You cannot withstand such power!

« I know,” replied Ah-yah calmly, “my end is but my return to eternity.”

It didn’t take long for the living light to begin overflowing and overpowering the dark heart of Avalon. Ah-yah had willed her destiny to triumph.

Soon, more energy moved up through the gates, passing through Ah-yah’s body, and a field of golden light began appearing around her body, growing in size. Vibrant fluorescent waves of light circulating throughout the island and re-coding the atmospheric energies, the elemental forces merged with the new, incoming elemental energy that was full of life and love. As the light grew too strong, Ah-yah’s flesh was no longer dim, but it shone bright with light and energy. Ténèbres’s minions began running to and fro in a frenzy, crying in pain.

A golden entity of light appeared on the island, witnessing the last moments of Ah-yah’s life in adoration. She acknowledged his presence with her awareness, which was now merged with the elemental force of light that circulated around the island. She took one last inhale, and as she exhaled — as if a balloon popped — her body was vaporized. She was now pure, unaltered energy, moving through the planet as a force of light.

The same was not true for Ténèbres, or what used to be Ténèbres. Even though he was now pure energy like Ah-yah, unlike her, he had no memory of his identity or character.

Soon after, more beings of light appeared on the island. And the seal of Avalon was released.